



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
AGENDA

MONDAY

DECEMBER 13, 2021

6:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- C. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Council discussion on assessing/revaluation, *requested by Councilor McPike.*
 - b. Meeting with DEP and others regarding the landfill.
 - c. Council discussion on updating the Investment Policy.
 - d. Council review and consideration of reserve request changes.
 - e. Council discussion on setting a date for the goals and objectives meeting.
 - f. Council consideration on signing a proclamation designating January 23, 2022 to January 29, 2022 as school choice week, *requested by Councilor Wright.*
 - g. Council consideration on request for public statement condemning the National Association of School Boards statement, *requested by Shawn McBreairty.*
- D. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Council will take a five-minute recess at 8:00 p.m.

FOR THOSE THAT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
REMOTE HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP ON DECEMBER 13, 2021 AT 6:00
PM YOU MAY PHONE IN USING THE
FOLLOWING NUMBER (FOLLOWED BY THE
PIN #)

1-973-947-6443 PIN 914 809 781#

OR-

FROM A LAPTOP OR A DESKTOP, YOU MAY GO
TO THIS URL: [https://meet.google.com/
yjg-fuoj-ceu?hs=122&authuser=0](https://meet.google.com/yjg-fuoj-ceu?hs=122&authuser=0) AND JOIN
US THAT WAY

**INSTRUCTIONS ARE POSTED WITH THE AGENDA
AND SEPARATELY ON THE TOWN CALENDAR AT
WWW.HAMPDENMAINE.GOV**

Using Google Meet to Participate in Hampden Town Council Remote Meetings

How to join:

1. Town Council members will receive an email or a Google Calendar Invite with a link to join the meeting.
2. People interested in joining will need to go to the link posted on the town events calendar at www.hampdenmaine.gov.
3. Anyone can also join for audio-only participation by calling the number provided on the town events calendar and then entering the PIN provided followed by the # symbol.

Protocols for Remote Meetings:

1. Log in or call in at least 5 minutes before scheduled start of meeting.
2. For the audio portion, use either your phone or your computer microphone, not both.
3. Mute your phone or computer mic unless speaking. Remember to un-mute if you want to speak. To mute or unmute in Google Meet, click on the little microphone icon at the bottom of the screen; note you may need to move your mouse pointer around the bottom of your screen to get the bottom bar to appear.
4. Speak up if using a computer microphone or if using the speaker function on your telephone.
5. Do not rustle papers in front of your mic unless it's muted. Please minimize background noise.
6. If you're referring to a document, identify it including page or sheet number.
7. If using the video function, have a light source in front of you if possible. Try to avoid backlighting.
8. If you want to look good, have your camera mounted at eye level or above. Look at yourself on screen to check the lighting, camera position, what's in the background, etc. In Google Meet, you can do this "video check" when you open the program before you join the meeting.
9. If you are participating by audio only, identify yourself when speaking.
10. ALL votes will be by roll call.
11. After the meeting is adjourned, click on the red phone icon on the bottom bar to leave the meeting, or (obviously) just hang up the phone if that is how you are participating.

For detailed instructions on using Google Meet, please refer to their website:

support.google.com/a/users/answer/9282720?hl=en

C-a



Memorandum

TO: Town Council
FROM: Paula Scott, Town Manager
DATE: 12/07/2021
RE: Discussion about assessing/revaluation

Councilor McPike asked that discussion regarding the status of our assessments prior to our revaluation. In asking for clarification, he stated that he thinks we should have a discussion about how we handle the disparities from now until then; what we should be doing in the meantime. Part of that discussion, in my estimation, is for a better understanding of assessing functions compared to revaluation functions. I am not sure what else Councilor McPike has for questions, and I have asked the Assessor to be in attendance.



Memorandum

TO: Town Council
FROM: Paula Scott, Town Manager
DATE: December 6, 2021
RE: Presentation with DEP re: Pine Tree Landfill

Requested by resident Bill Lippincott, and through the Environmental Trust and our technical consultant, this presentation or meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection has been set up to discuss the Pine Tree Landfill.

As you recall, at two prior meetings, we heard from our consultant Matt, as well as from representatives from Casella regarding water testing, leachate levels, and the continued monitoring at the former landfill. Mr. Lippincott had concerns about reducing the testing that is being done and asked that we contact the case manager at the DEP and ask her to come to a meeting to talk about this plan for reducing testing, among other things.

Mr. Lippincott would like the Town Council to compel the DEP to continue the monitoring and testing as it has been with no reductions. I don't want to speak for him, but in prior email inquiries, I believe he also has concerns about PFAS (per-and polyfluoralkyl substances) that he would like addressed.



Memorandum

TO: Town Council
FROM: Paula Scott, Town Manager
DATE: 12/07/2021
RE: Investment Policy

In looking at some of our banking and investment accounts trying to find ways to maximize our fiduciary responsibility, Deputy Treasurer Johnson noticed that the Investment Policy is in need of updating. Following this memo, you will find the redlined policy that Dave and I have both reviewed and edited.

To touch on the most obvious changes, please see below:

Section B

- 4.) New language insures that when the limits exceed the limits by FDIC/FSLIC that they will be secured by the assets of the bank
- 5.) Maine Savings does not have a "sweep account" feature which Dave has asked them to add and to which they say they are working on. It can be assumed that they want to save on paying out more interest. If they had a sweep, we could set an amount in our non-interest bearing checking account of \$10,000 and each night the account would look at how much is being withdrawn from checking and it would sweep the amount it needs from savings to bring the account back up to the \$10,000. If they had this we could maximize the interest on all our funds. (Less the \$10,000) The way it is now, we may have \$500,000 to \$1.5 million sitting in our checking account waiting for warrants to get approved and checks to be cashed. Our "demand" account is the checking account, and it is exceedingly difficult to manage this with all the transactions that we do. There is no real reason to have something in the "investment policy" that talks about how much you need to keep in your checking account. We know we need to have enough in there to cover checks in transit. The policy also talks about striving to "invest" 95% of all available funds on a day to day basis. Currently, we are able to receive the safest return on our money by keeping it in our Maine Savings club account, which is not an investment, it is just a savings account.

At the end of the day, we need to obtain the highest rate of return in a safe manner. Right now, one of the safest ways to do that is to put the funds in our savings account where we earn 1% interest, and the money is collateralized up to \$8 million. We can search for short term CDs with institutions that will collateralize them if we are over the \$250,000 FDIC threshold and allow us to break the CDs penalty free. Dave recommends varying levels (\$200,000, \$300,000, \$500,000) in case we need to break them for an emergency or even a planned capital expense.

- 7.) It is more convenient, less expensive and quicker to obtain quotes versus advertising for bid requests. Sometimes you need to move fast to obtain the best return on your money, and waiting around for publications to hit the papers, bids to come in, etc...will not be very advantageous. We would document the various institutions that we would seek quotes from.
- 9.) Statute was repealed.

Section C

Reporting has not been done quarterly for quite some time, however, we can produce a report at any time at the request of Council so we are asking that this be removed in keeping with practice. We would stay the end of year reporting which coincides with reporting all other end of year unaudited financials.

I am bringing this to work shop for review before the December 20th meeting at which time I will be asking for approval.

INVESTMENT POLICIES

HAMPDEN, MAINE

Section A - Investment Objectives

Maine state statutes authorize treasurers to deposit or invest municipal funds by direction of the municipal officers.

Pursuant to 30-A MRSA §5706, the municipality of Hampden, Maine shall adopt the following investment objectives in the management and investment of municipal funds:

- o The primary objective of the municipality's investment activities is the preservation of capital and the protection of investment principal.
- o In investing public funds, the municipality will strive to maximize the return on the portfolio but will avoid assuming unreasonable investment risk.
- o The municipality's investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the municipality to meet operating requirements which might be reasonably anticipated.
- o The municipality will diversify its investments to avoid incurring unreasonable and avoidable risks regarding specific security types or individual financial institutions.

Section B - Investment Principles

The municipal treasurer shall invest funds for which there is no immediate need, sell and exchange securities so purchased, and deposit such securities for safekeeping. All investment decisions shall be made considering the investment objectives contained in Section A and exercising judgment and care under the circumstances then prevailing.

The following investment principles shall guide the treasurer in the conduct of the municipality's investment program:

4. The municipality may purchase only legally authorized investments under 30-A MRSA §5706. Short-term U.S. Treasury bills can be used as a benchmark for all other investment transactions



Memorandum

TO: Town Council
FROM: Paula Scott, Town Manager
DATE: 11/29/2021
RE: Reserve account consolidation/deletion

In 2018, in conjunction with budget discussion on the reserve accounts, and at the request of our auditor, Manager Chandler presented a list of reserve accounts that either had balances below \$5,000, had not been used for a while, or appeared redundant in their purposes. During the discussion the Council had no objections but asked for more information regarding the accounts and their purposes which I am not sure was ever provided.

Section 710 of the Charter states that 'an appropriation for a capital expenditure shall continue in force until the purpose for which it was made has been accomplished or abandoned; the purpose of any such appropriation shall be deemed abandoned if three years pass without any activity or encumbrance of the appropriation by the Council.'

After working with the Finance Department and Department Heads, we have come up with suggested recommendations for Council to consider with regard to consolidating, deleting; or aptly changing names to encompass a broader purpose. Below you will see the reserve accounts listed, their current balances, and in red, our recommendations. I am requesting authorization to proceed as indicated with the recommendations which are captured below. I am asking you to review for questions or discussion at workshop prior to the December 20th meeting.

Account Name:

Account balance

Municipal Building Reserve – (3-702-00)

\$156,789.13

For building construction, maintenance, and repair on the municipal building and contents at 106 Western Ave. Funds can be used for the entire municipal building but capital purchases need to be separated by public safety and administration sides of the building for fixed asset purposes.

Town Record Restoration – (3-719-00) – obsolete

\$ 19.74

Records restoration is now within the expense budget and not held in reserve.

Requesting to delete account and roll over balance of account into Municipal Building reserve.

Personnel Reserve – (3-733-00)**\$ 71,158.80**

For unexpected personnel liabilities such as expenses related to sickness, retirement, compensatory time pay, unemployment, recruitment, employee buy-out, etc. The fiscal goal is to have enough funds in this account to offset all employees earned time benefits.

Computer Reserve – (3-711-00)**\$ 43,020.94**

For computers, servers, printers/copiers, GIS mapping needs, A/V, phone systems and related equipment for all town departments.

Copier Reserve – (3-715-00) – obsolete**\$ 247.32**

Requesting to delete account and roll over balance of account into the Computer Reserve.

GIS Mapping Reserve – (3-731-00)**\$ 6,477.04**

Requesting to delete account and roll over balance of account into the Computer Reserve

Planning & Commissions Reserve – (3-725-00)**\$ 39,089.94**

For purposes related to planning and development projects in the Town including legal services, maps, software, engineering, fees, permits, and consulting.

Town Property Survey – (3-729-00)**\$ 2,101.38**

For surveys, mapping and legal work for town properties, or property that becomes town owned. Requesting to delete account and roll over balance of account into the Planning & Commissions Reserve.

Economic Development Reserve – (3-727-00)**\$ 37,857.04**

For expenses related to business recruitment and retention and residential and housing needs within the town including legal, engineering, construction, design, and infrastructure to encourage business growth and residential expansion in the town, including a micro loan program.

Revaluation Reserve – (3-730-00)**\$ 100,000.00**

For costs associated with town-wide real estate and personal property valuation, factoring updates, sketching and all related areas pertaining to ensuring that tax values are accurate, up-to-date, and just.

Matching Grant Reserve – (3-780-00)**\$ 24,241.11**

For matching funds needed on any State, Federal, or other grant which has not been budgeted within the tax commitment. This can be accessed by any department in the town for appropriate grant matching requirements.

Public Works Equipment – (3-717-00)**\$ 39,520.12**

For purchasing, maintenance and major repair or overhaul of equipment to be used in the public works department.

City Bus Reserve – (3-710-00) – obsolete**\$ 82.25**

Formerly used to set aside our portion of capital requirements, however the capital charge is now automatically added to each year's appropriation request.

Requesting to delete account and roll over balance of account into the Public Works Equipment Reserve

Streets and Roads – (3-761-00)**\$151,780.57**

For construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance of all town streets and roads and sidewalks, including engineering, mapping, surveying, legal and permitting.

EPA/DEP Garage Modifications Reserve – (3-778-00)**\$ 18,514.74**

For building maintenance and repair on all public works buildings.

Requesting to change the name to Public Works Buildings

Solid Waste Garage Reserve – (3-777-00)**\$112,617.17**

For construction, maintenance and repair on all Transfer Station buildings, including the swap shop, and for maintenance, repair or replacement of Transfer Station equipment.

Requesting to change the name to Transfer Station Buildings & Equipment

Buildings & Grounds Reserve – (3-775-00)**\$ 20,627.20**

For construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of all buildings and infrastructure associated with the building and grounds department such as cemeteries, parks, municipal grounds, marina grounds, sport fields, fences, porta-potty surrounds, and other peripherals.

Cemetery Fund Reserve – (3-708-00)**\$ 23,352.31**

For cemetery grounds and equipment, stone repair services, and other related expenses to be specifically for the maintenance and care for the town's cemeteries. This is a perpetual care trust fund and only the interest earned on the account may be spent.

Marina Improvements Reserve – (3-773-00)**\$ 20,816.70**

For construction, maintenance, repairs, improvements, and equipment such as docks, way-finding signs and informational kiosks as well as legal, engineering, testing, dredging and infrastructure at the Hampden Marina. Also includes repair, maintenance and upkeep of the banking and related earthwork of the historic site, Turtle Head Park which is a part of the marina overall.

Stormwater Reserve – (3-760-00)**\$ 80,324.94**

For stormwater infrastructure, equipment, maintenance, repair, and structures pertaining to the stormwater systems of the town, including legal, engineering, software, hardware, and other needed peripherals for monitoring and MS4 compliance.

Ambulance Reserve – (3-737-00)**\$ 29,128.89**

For the purchase, maintenance and repair of the ambulance fleet and associated attached equipment.

Requesting to change the name to EMS Vehicles

ALS Equipment Reserve – (3-739-00)**\$ 44,082.22**

For the purchase of advanced life systems equipment and supplies and other related EMS supplies used on an ambulance or other emergency vehicle that is not physically attached to the ambulance.

Requesting to change the name to EMS Equipment

Fire Truck Reserve – (3-741-00)**\$ 83,789.34**

For the purchase, maintenance and repair of the fire truck fleet and associated attached equipment.

Requesting to change the name to Fire Vehicles

Fire Truck Refurbish Reserve – (3-743-00)**\$ 20,423.50**

For restoring, repairing, or retro-fitting vehicles and attached equipment in the existing fire truck fleet.

Requesting to delete account and roll over balance into Fire Truck Reserve

Fire Building Reserve – (3-745-00)

\$ 2,466.02

For building maintenance and repair on the Public Safety side of the municipal building, and its contents including bay doors, floor and ceiling repairs, electrical, kitchen equipment, and all other typical building expenses.

Requesting to delete account and roll over balance into Municipal Building Reserve.

Fire Thermal Imaging Camera Reserve – (3-747-00)

\$ 11,865.44

For the purchase, maintenance, and repair of thermal imaging camera. If the change is approved, it will be for all fire equipment not physically attached to a vehicle.

Requesting to change the name to Fire Equipment

Fire Training Area Reserve – (3-749-00)

\$ 2,445.93

For maintenance, repair, structures, and equipment at the fire training area.

Requesting to delete account and roll over balance into the Fire Equipment Reserve

Police Equipment Reserve – (3-750-00)

\$ 18,549.77

For the purchase, maintenance, and repair of all police equipment not physically attached to the vehicles, mobile equipment such as service weapons, tasers, body armor, cameras, etc.

Public Safety Boat Reserve – (3-751-00)

\$ 1,537.31

For the purchase, maintenance, and repair of a rescue boat and all associated attached equipment.

Requesting to delete account and roll over the balance into the Fire Equipment Reserve

Police Cruiser Reserve – (3-753-00)

\$ 58,466.45

For the purchase, maintenance, and repair of the Police Department fleet of vehicles and associated attached equipment.

Requesting to change the name to Police Vehicles Reserve

Communications Reserve – (3-759-00)

\$ 10,241.83

For the purchase, maintenance and repair of public safety/emergency services communication mobile devices and all components.

Requesting to change the name to Public Safety Mobile Communications.

Library Reserve – (3-763-00)

\$ 12,577.63

For building construction, maintenance, repairs, pump station maintenance, equipment, parking lot and sidewalks, and other related infrastructure.

Library Grant Reserve – (3-765-00)

\$ 268.96

Remaining balance of funds given to the library for special programs. The funds were spent on the appropriate intended programs, but a small balance remained. Interest has been accruing on that balance.

Requesting to delete the account and roll over the balance into the Library Reserve.

Recreation Area Reserve – (3-767-00)

\$288,842.16

For building construction, purchase, maintenance and repairs at the recreational facilities such as the Skehan Recreational Center, tennis courts, ball fields, pool site, playground, gazebo, and other recreational areas. Includes purchase, maintenance, and repairs for sport related fixed equipment such as bleachers, concession stands, etc. Also includes stormwater mitigation for the parking lot and stormwater project at the pool site, in accordance with our SLOD permit.

Playground Reserve – (3-768-00)

\$ 19, 620.18

For the purchase, maintenance, and repair of playground equipment.

Requesting to delete the account and roll over the balance into the Recreation Area Reserve.

Pool Facility Reserve – (3-771-00)

\$172,631.45

For construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the building, equipment, and mechanical systems at the pool facility, including parking lot and sidewalk specific to the facility.

Sewer Reserve – (2-220-00)

\$116,456.48

For capital improvements, repair, or replacements to sewer infrastructure or the purchase of capital equipment.

Requesting separating these funds at Maine Savings into a Sewer club account so interest on these funds will be applied appropriately.



Memorandum

TO: Town Council
FROM: Paula Scott, Town Manager
DATE: 12/07/2021
RE: Council/Town statement

Mayor Wright was approached via email by Andrew Campanella requesting that she consider signing a proclamation designating January 23 to January 29, 2022 as school choice week and which she suggested should come before Council for consideration.

The Town has done this most recently when David Ryder was Mayor and at that meeting, the Council voted to authorize him to sign it.



Paula Scott <townmanager@hampdenmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proclamation Request

4 messages

Shelby Wright <wrighttowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 9:43 AM

To: Eric Jarvi <jarvitowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov>, townmanager@hampdenmaine.gov

Thoughts - workshop discussion?

Shelby D Wright 207-592-6432
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Proclamations Department <proclamations@schoolchoiceweek.com>
Date: November 16, 2021 at 10:00:40 AM EST
To: Shelby Wright <wrighttowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov>
Subject: Proclamation Request
Reply-To: Proclamations Department <proclamations@schoolchoiceweek.com>

Dear Shelby Wright:

We are respectfully requesting that you consider joining city and county leaders across the country in officially recognizing January 23 – 29, 2022 as School Choice Week in HAMPDEN.

Issuing a proclamation provides an opportunity to shine a positive spotlight on the K-12 education options available for children and families in HAMPDEN.

Last year, more than 300 mayors and county leaders, along with 27 governors, and the unanimous United States Senate issued proclamations recognizing National School Choice Week.

National School Choice Week is entirely nonpolitical and nonpartisan, and we do not advocate for or against any legislation. Our goal is simply to raise awareness, among parents, of the public and nonpublic K-12 education options available to their children.

Please let me know if you will be able to issue this proclamation and help us raise awareness of the importance of opportunity in education. I greatly appreciate your consideration. We have provided both a Word and .PDF proclamation template on our website at:

<https://schoolchoiceweek.com/proclamations/>

Also, for your convenience, we have provided the suggested proclamation language below.

Best,
Andrew

Andrew Campanella
President
National School Choice Week
www.schoolchoiceweek.com

SUGGESTED PROCLAMATION LANGUAGE

HAMPDEN School Choice Week

WHEREAS all children in HAMPDEN should have access to the highest-quality education possible; and,

WHEREAS HAMPDEN recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in HAMPDEN to be successful adults; and,

WHEREAS quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of HAMPDEN; and,

WHEREAS HAMPDEN is home to a multitude of high quality public and nonpublic schools from which parents can choose for their children, in addition to families who educate their children in the home; and

WHEREAS, educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and,

WHEREAS HAMPDEN has many high-quality teaching professionals in all types of school settings who are committed to educating our children; and,

WHEREAS, School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness

of the need for effective educational options;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shelby Wright do hereby recognize January 23 – 29, 2022 as HAMPDEN School Choice Week, and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.

INSTRUCTIONS

- If you issue a proclamation, please send a .pdf copy of the proclamation to the Proclamations Department at proclamations@schoolchoiceweek.com, so that we may recognize you for participating.
- If you choose to send a hard copy of an issued proclamation, please send it to: National School Choice Week, [67 Mark Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903](#).

[Follow on Twitter](#) [Friend on Facebook](#)

National School Choice Week provides an unprecedented opportunity, every January, to shine a spotlight on the need for effective education options for all children. Independently planned by a diverse coalition of individuals, schools and organizations, NSCW features thousands of special events across the country. The Week is a nonpartisan and nonpolitical public awareness effort.

Our mailing address is:

Proclamations Department

[67 Mark Drive](#)

San Rafael, CA 94903

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

You are subscribed to the National School Choice Week mailing list:

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to wrighttowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov
why did I get this? [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
NSCW · [67 Mark Drive](#) · [San Rafael, California 94903](#) · [USA](#)



TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MAINE

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, HAMPDEN recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in HAMPDEN to be successful adults; and,

WHEREAS, quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of HAMPDEN; and,

WHEREAS, HAMPDEN is home to a multitude of high-quality public and nonpublic schools from which parents can choose for their children, in addition to families who educate their children in the home; and

WHEREAS, educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and,

WHEREAS, HAMPDEN has many high-quality teaching professionals in all types of school settings who are committed to educating our children; and,

WHEREAS, School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Wright do hereby recognize January 23 – January 29, 2022 as HAMPDEN School Choice Week, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens. I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Town of Hampden, Maine to be affixed on this ____st day of _____



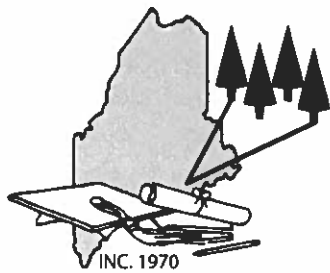
Memorandum

TO: Town Council
FROM: Paula Scott, Town Manager
DATE: December 6, 2021
RE: Council Statement on NASB letter

During the November 8th workshop, resident Shawn McBraierty spoke to Council under public access about a letter that the National Association of School Boards had written to the Biden administration and the Department of Justice regarding parents at school board meetings across the nation.

While that letter has since been retracted, at the time, Mr. McBraierty asked the Council to make a formal statement or resolution regarding that letter and asked him to provide the language to bring back for consideration at this workshop. Also at the time, Councilor McPike asked that I contact the Superintendent to give the school an opportunity to respond.

I have subsequently provided Mr. McBraierty a template of sample resolution language for his use, and also reached out to Superintendent Nikels. Although unable to attend tonight's workshop, Regan did send over a letter which follows this memo. By the time the packet was put together, there was still nothing from Mr. McBraierty. I kept this item on the agenda so that you would have the benefit of reading the letter from the Superintendent's office, as well as to potentially bring this matter to conclusion.



Maine Regional School Unit #22

Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, Frankfort

24 Main Road North • Hampden, ME 04444 • Phone (207) 862-3255 • Fax (207) 862-2789

REGAN NICKELS
Superintendent of Schools
rnickels@rsu22.us

CHRISTINE BOONE
Assistant Superintendent for District Development
cboone@rsu22.us

December 8, 2021

Paula Scott, Town Manager
Town of Hampden
106 Western Avenue
Hampden, ME 04444

Re: Invitation

Dear Paula:

I am following up on your recent call inviting me to meet with the Town Council regarding a letter written by the National School Board Association on September 29, 2021 (and recanted on October 22, 2021) regarding its perception of challenges facing schools during the pandemic. While I am unclear why the issue of this letter is before Town Council, I thought I would share my thoughts with you.

In essence, the RSU 22 School Board, its administrators, and its staff are focused on providing the best education it can for the children of our community. We strive to create a safe and supportive environment for students to learn, employees to work, and we strive to comply with all federal and state laws while doing so. We do not take positions on political issues, including the recanted NSBA letter, because our focus is, and has to be, on running our schools as best we can. While this has always been a challenge, trying to do this during a worldwide pandemic has made this challenge even harder.

That said, I am proud to say that RSU 22 schools are recognized as some of the most highly rated in the State of Maine. The town itself has acknowledged this fact. Our teachers, counselors and administrators have received State recognition, and our students have gone on to be productive members of our community.

While I will not be attending the Town Council workshop, please share my thoughts with Town Council and wish them well.

Respectfully,

Regan Nickels
Superintendent of Schools